

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are pending in the application. The Examiner has objected claim 1 and the Examiner has rejected claim 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,810,306) in view of Zadro (U.S. 2004/0047052).

With respect to the objection of claim 1 and the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter, the unclear terms in the Claim 1 has been modified accordingly.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Zadro. Hung et al.'s flexible arm uses a heavy gauge wire and “**a plurality of spacer members 25, 25'**”, are positioned along wire and beneath the cover member 41... preferably is in the form of a disk”. (See Hung et al. Fig.3 and Fig. 4 and col. 3, ll. 19, 21.)

“A cover member 41, preferably in the form of an outwardly ribbed or corrugated substantially cylindrical tube or bellow structure ... is fitted over wire 13 and disks 25... a more easily gripped surface.” col. 3, ll. 45-51. At the meantime, Zadro discloses flexible arm 33 is a spirally formed steel tube in which adjacent spiral convolutions are flexibly jointed, but frictionally engaged with one another to maintain an adjusted flexure of the arm. Zadro Paragraph 32, ll. 3-5. The flexible arm of Hung et al. requires **using a plurality of disks** to maintain the structure integrity of the arm. Even if it is possible to replace the flexible arm of Zadro with the one used in Hung et al. as the Examiner suggests, both prior art don't teach or disclose two important features of the present invention; first, the exterior covering member is directly formed on the substantial full length of the elongate body member by an injection mold

process; second, **“the exterior covering member has a diameter gradually reduced from two ends of the elongate body member toward the middle so that provides a more flexible, bendable and foldable middle region of the elongate body member”**. This invention provides a supporting structure having a thinner middle region so that it is easy to adjust the posture of the structure around the middle region comparing to the regions near by the end of the supporting structure that is not taught or disclosed by Huang or Zadro.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s rejections. If the Examiner believes that a further telephonic interview will facilitate allowance of the claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (610) 446-5886. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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